

REMARKS

Claim 11 has been canceled and claim 13 has been added.

Claim 13 is specific to the embodiment of figure 4 of the drawings. Claim 13 sets forth that in order to ensure proper sealing between each conductor pin 8 and the respective cavity 34 formed in the front surface of the body 30, each sealing ring 35 is pressed axially between the body 30 and a completely separate plate 37 which is pressed against the front surface of the flange 32 by screws. The claim states that flange 32 rests against the inner surface of the closure plate of the tank. Thus, when the screws fixing plate 37 to the flange 32 and to the closure plate I are tightened, projections 36 apply an axial pressure against the sealing rings 35 which are thus caused to be expanded radially thereby ensuring proper sealing.

In Miller et al. there is no separate element which is pressed by screws against the sealing rings 78 of figure 2, which could cause an axial compression of the rings. As to ring 40 it has a function similar to that of ring 31 of the invention but not to ring 35 of the invention, i.e. it is not subjected to any force tending to reduce its axial dimension.

Quadir shows conductor pins 70 fixed within a body 60. There is no teaching in this document of providing, around each conductor pin, a sealing ring which is subjected to an axial compression between two separate and independent elements which are screwed together so as to tend to decrease the axial dimension of the sealing ring and to increase the radial dimension of the sealing ring to ensure proper sealing. This last feature is the key feature of the invention and it is not taught by any of the references of record.

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114
U.S. Application No. 10/799,887

Attorney Docket No. Q79841

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert V. Sloan
Registration No. 22,775

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE
23373
CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: February 23, 2006